

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08

NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 OES-06 FEA-01 /110 W

-----111121Z 006269 /11

R 110823Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5931

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USEC BRUSSELS 274

USMTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EINV, ETRD, ASEAN

SUBJECT: ASEAN/CANADIAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS, FEB. 3-4, 1977

REF: STATE 30481

SUMMARY: ASEAN/CANADIAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS RESULTED IN AGREEMENT ON TWO ON-GOING PROJECTS AND ACCEPTANCE OF TWO NEW PROJECTS. TRADE AND INVESTMENT WERE GIVEN HEAVY EMPHASIS DUE TO INTERVENTIONS BY MALAYSIAN DELEGATION AND PHILIPPINE UNDER-SECRETARY OF TRADE, WHO SOUGHT INCLUSION OF PHILIPPINE EXPORTS IN CANADIAN GSP. MEETING WAS UNSTRUCTURED
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BUT WENT WELL, WITH GOP SECRETARIAT FUNCTIONING EFFICIENTLY. BOTH CANADIANS AND ASEAN COUNTRIES WENT HOME PLEASED WITH OUTCOME OF MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. ASEAN CANADIAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS WERE HELD IN MANILA ON FEB. 3-4 AND RESULTED IN AGREEMENT ON FOUR PROJECTS -- REGIONAL SATELLITE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, REGIONAL AIR TRANSPORT,

FISHERIES, AND TRADE. THERE WAS ALSO AGREEMENT ON EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL PROJECTS IN FORESTRY AND REFORESTATION, OCEANOGRAPHY, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, MINERAL DEVELOPMENT AND SURVEY (INCLUDING OIL), AND TRANSPORTATION TECHNIQUES SUCH AS SHIPBUILDING AND PORT DEVELOPMENT. THERE WAS A CONSENSUS FOR A FURTHER MEETING IN OTTAWA IN MAY 1977.

2. THE CANADIAN DELEGATION WAS LED BY R.L. ROGERS, DIRECTOR GENERAL, BUREAU OF PACIFIC AND ASIA AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. IT INCLUDED J.M.T. THOMAS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE, AND I. ROBERTSON OF THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA).

3. AMBASSADOR MODESTO FAROLAN, PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR TO JAKARTA AND ALSO DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DFA ASEAN SECRETARIAT, WAS THE ASEAN SPOKESMAN AS WELL AS CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING. THE OTHER ASEAN DELEGATIONS WERE HEADED BY THE DIRECTORS GENERAL OF THE VARIOUS NATIONAL ASEAN SECRETARIATS --UMARJADI NJOTOWIJONO OF INDONESIA, DATUK ALI ABDULLAH OF MALAYSIA, TAN BOON SENG OF SINGAPORE, AND NISSAI VEJAJIVA OF THAILAND.

4. THE MEETING SPENT ABOUT EQUAL TIME ON DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (THAT IS, THE VARIOUS PROJECTS) AND ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT. THE EMPHASIS ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROBABLY OWED A GREAT DEAL TO THE INTERVENTIONS OF DATUK ALI, WHO WAS INTERESTED IN FOREIGN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVESTMENTS AND COMMODITIES, AS WELL AS TO A STRONG SPEECH BY GOP UNDERSECRETARY OF TRADE VICENTE VALDEPENAS. VALDEPENAS, HOWEVER, DWELT EXCLUSIVELY ON BILATERAL CANADIAN/PHILIPPINE TRADE, THE GIST OF HIS SPEECH BEING A REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A LONG LIST OF ITEMS IN THE CANADIAN GSP. HIS EFFORT WENT FOR NOUGHT, AS THE OTHER ASEAN DELEGATES AGREED TO EXCISE HIS SPEECH FROM THE SUMMARY RECORD AS IF IT HAD NOT OCCURRED.

5. THE CANADIANS WERE AFRAID THAT THE ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD STICK WITH THEIR PROPOSED AGENDA WHICH INCLUDED 11 AREAS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION (LEE/SCHRAM MEMCON, 12/14/76). THE FINAL AGENDA, HOWEVER, FOLLOWED THE CANADIAN VERSION AND INCLUDED A CANADIAN PROPOSAL FOR A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WHICH THE ASEAN COUNTRIES TURNED DOWN IN FAVOR OF COOPERATION IN TRADE. THIS THE CANADIANS ACCEPTED AND HAVE INTERPRETED AS MEANING CANADIAN

TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE IN TRADE PROMOTION. THE
CANADIANS ALSO PROPOSED COOPERATION IN FISHERIES
WHICH THE ASEAN COUNTRIES ACCEPTED.

6. THE PRINCIPAL PROJECTS WERE THE REGIONAL SATELLITE
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM ON WHICH A CANADIAN CONSULTANT

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-----111122Z 006538 /15

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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
47(91 /AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 4195
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HAD DONE A PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY AND REGIONAL AIR TRANS-
PORT ON WHICH TWO CANADIAN EXPERTS ARE NOW TOURING THE
REGION ON A SURVEY. WITH RESPECT TO THE SATELLITE
SYSTEM, THE MEETING AGREED TO PROCEED WITH A FEASI-
BILITY STUDY WHICH CIDA IS TO FUND AT A COST OF
\$800,000. THE STUDY IS TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER 1977 AND
BE COMPLETED IN 1978. THE REGIONAL AIR TRANSPORT
PROJECT, ACCORDING TO THE DESIRES OF THE ASEAN
COUNTRIES, WOULD INCLUDE MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND
ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A LANGUAGE LABORATORY IN EACH ASEAN COUNTRY.

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7. ROBERTSON OF CIDA TOLD THE ASEAN DELEGATES THAT CIDA WAS CONTEMPLATING A ONE MILLION CANADIAN DOLLAR PLANNING FIGURE PER YEAR FOR FIVE YEARS FOR THE COSTS OF THE VARIOUS PROJECTS. THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVES APPARENTLY WERE NOT HAPPY THAT HE ANNOUNCED THIS FIGURE WHICH WAS OBVIOUSLY TOO LOW, AS \$800,000 WAS ALREADY COMMITTED TO THE SATELLITE PROJECT. THIS WAS ALSO CLEAR TO THE ASEAN DELEGATES, WHOSE REACTION WAS TO BE BLANDLY OBLIVIOUS TO IT.

8. THE MEETING WAS NOT STRUCTURED AND TENDED TO BE DOMINATED BY THE RAMBLING AND INEFFECTUAL INTERVENTIONS OF SEPTUAGENARIAN FAROLAN, THE INCISIVE AND BUSINESS-LIKE COMMENTS OF TAN BOON SENG WHO APPEARED TO BE THE ARCHETYPICAL SINGAPOREAN, AND THE WELL-PREPARED PRESENTATIONS OF THE CANADIANS. DATUK ALI SPOKE UP ON INVESTMENTS AND COMMODITIES, WHILE THE INDONESIANS, MALAYSIANS AND THAIS HARDLY SPOKE. ASEAN SECRETARY-GENERAL DHARSONO WAS INEFFECTIVE, DID NOT SAY A WORD, AND SUFFERED THE INDIGNITY OF A DEBATE AMONG THE ASEAN DELEGATES AS TO WHETHER HIS PRESENCE SHOULD BE MENTIONED IN THE SUMMARY RECORD.

9. THE CANADIANS HAD SOME MISGIVINGS OVER ASEAN AS A VEHICLE FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, BUT THEY WERE PREPARED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PROPOSAL MADE IN MARCH 1975 TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE BY THE CANADIAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THAT CANADA WAS PREPARED TO EXTEND A PROGRAM OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO ASEAN. WHATEVER MISGIVINGS, AND THE GOP SECRETARIAT WAS EFFICIENT. THE CANADIAN EMBASSY BELIEVES THE POLITICAL BENEFITS WERE OF GREATER VALUE THAN THE MODES SCOPE OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

10. THE DIALOGUE WAS CONDUCTED WITH OFFICIALS OF
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THE ASEAN SECRETARIATS, AND THE QUESTION NOW IS WHAT LINES THESE DIRECTORS GENERAL HAVE WITHIN THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS, THAT IS, TO THEIR MINISTRIES OF TRADE, INDUSTRY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ETC. THE CANADIANS, FOR EXAMPLE, DID NOT THINK THAT A FURTHER ASEAN/

CANADIAN MEETING IN OTTAWA WAS NECESSARY AND HAD THE
IMPRESSION THAT (IN PROPOSING THE MAY 1977 MEETING)
THE SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS WERE MERELY INTERESTED IN
A TRIP.

COMMENT: ON THE WHOLE, THE ASEAN/CANADIAN ECONOMIC
CONSULTATIONS CONSTITUTSD A GOOD MEETING -- THE
CANADIANS WERE PLEASED AND SO WERE THE ASEAN
COUNTRIES.

11. THE EMBASSY OBTAINED THE FOREGOING INFORMATION
FROM CANADIAN EMBOFF JOHN SCHRAM AND JOSE
FERNANDEZ OF THE DFA ASEAN SECRETARIAT. WE ARE
POUCHING TO DEPARTMENT, OTTAWA, AND ASEAN ADDRESSEES
FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS -- AGENDA, LIST OF DELEGATIONS,
ROMULO SPEECH, AND JOINT PRESS RELEASE.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA02176
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770049-0712
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770250/aaaabsfq.tel
Line Count: 241
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2df1f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 30481
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3344030
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASEAN/CANADIAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS, FEB. 3-4, 1977
TAGS: EGEN, EINV, ETRD, OCON, CA, ASEAN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2df1f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009